

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:DCNORTON:BK

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER MET WITH GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS ON THURSDAY, FEB 12. ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, GUYANA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, AND GUYANESE AMBASSADOR MANN. TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, GUYANA'S PERSISTENT OPPOSITION IN THE UN, ANGOLA AND CUBA.

2. BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP: THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR WILLS' COMING TO WASHINGTON AND FOR HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. HE CONFIRMED THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP HAD DETERIORATED RECENTLY THROUGH NO FAULT OF OUR OWN. HE SAID THAT WE HAD NO INTEREST IN ENGAGING IN A CONFRONTATION WITH GUYANA AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GUYANA SHARED THIS CONCERN. HE ASSURED WILLS THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT
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OUT TO UNDERMINE GUYANA'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND

THAT WHATEVER SYSTEM GUYANA ESTABLISHES WOULD NOT POSE A THREAT TO OUR SECURITY. WE HOPE IN THE FUTURE WE CAN CONTINUE TALKING ABOUT PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME ACUTE ISSUES IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

3. UN: WILLS INQUIRED WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT THE U.S. WAS DISAPPOINTED IN GUYANA'S VOTING RECORD IN THE UN. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT EXPECT 100 PERCENT SUPPORT FROM ANY NATION IN THE UN FOR OUR POSITIONS, WE DO TAKE NOTE WHENEVER A COUNTRY CONSISTENTLY VOTES AGAINST US AND ALIGNS ITSELF COMPLETELY WITH THE SOVIET/CUBAN POSITION. THE SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE RESPECTED GUYANA'S NON-ALIGNED POSITION, BUT BELIEVED THAT FROM TIME TO TIME GUYANA COULD SUPPORT OUR POSITIONS IN THE UN.

4. ANGOLA: THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT THE MASSIVE SOVIET EFFORT AND THE LARGE CUBAN TROOP INTERVENTION POSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR US AND HAD MADE AFRICA AN AREA OF RENEWED GREAT POWER RIVALRY. HE REVIEWED OUR LIMITED OBJECTIVES IN ANGOLA AND OUR PREFERENCES FOR A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTING ALL FACTIONS. THE SECRETARY CONFIRMED OUR OPPOSITION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT.

5. WILLS DEFENDED GUYANA'S STAND ON ANGOLA AS REFLECTIVE OF ITS OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID AND TO ANY GROUP SIDING WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS. HE NOTED THAT THE GOG HAD ORIGINALLY BACKED SAVIMBI BUT NO LONGER COULD SUPPORT HIM GIVEN HIS TURN TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOR ASSISTANCE. WILLS DID NOT READILY ACCEPT THE SECRETARY'S EXPLANATION THAT SAVIMBI HAD REQUESTED SOUTH AFRICAN ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING THE CUBAN INTERVENTION.

6. CUBA: THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT CUBA MUST GET OUT OF ANGOLA AND ATTRIBUTED THE CUBAN INTERVENTION THERE AS SETTING BACK ALL EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WILLS VIEWED THE CUBAN INTERVENTION DIFFERENTLY AND JUSTIFIED THE CUBANS' INTERVENING TO JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST APARTHEID, QUOTE, ENEMY, UNQUOTE. FOR THIS REASON, GUYANA MORALLY SUPPORTS
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CUBAN INVOLVEMENT.

7. CUBAN TRANSIT THROUGH GUYANA: THE SECRETARY ASKED WILLS POINT BLANK WHY GUYANA HAD ALLOWED CUBA TO USE TIMEHRI AIRFIELD. WILLS DENIED HE HAD KNOWLEDGE THAT CUBA HAD USED ITS AIRFIELD FACILITIES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES AND CITED THE BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH CUBA AS PERMITTING SUCH CUBAN TRANSIT. HE CLAIMED

TO HAVE NEVER SEEN OR READ ANY REPORTS CONFIRMING THAT THE CUBANS HAD SENT MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR TROOPS THROUGH GUYANA. THE SECRETARY REPLIED, QUOTE, I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT THEY USED YOUR AIRFIELD, UNQUOTE. HE CONTINUED THAT, AS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY, GUYANA COULD DO AS IT

WISHED, BUT REAFFIRMED OUR OPPOSITION TO ANY COUNTRY ASSISTING THE CUBAN INTERVENTION.

8. DESPITE ITS CLOSER CUBAN/SOVIET TIES, WILLS INFORMED THE SECRETARY THAT GUYANA WILL NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE USED AS A BASE FOR SOVIET OR CUBAN OPERATIONS.

9. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH WILLS AT SOME FUTURE DATE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE037651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DCNORTON:BK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760058-0421
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760245/aaaabnnx.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WILLIS
TAGS: PFOR, US, GY
To: GEORGETOWN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006